THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Presently, facility of direct haj flights upto Jeddah is available from State Capitals at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Srinagar and Lucknow.

(b) The representations received for providing direct haj flights are for other State Capitals of Jaipur, Bhopal and Patna.

(c) and (d) Starting a new embarkation point is a policy decision which can be taken only after due consultation with Ministry of External Affairs and Central Haj Committee.

Upgradation of Amritsar airport

3651. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports in the country upgraded to the level of International airport and provided with all basic facilities;

(b) whether any budgetary allocations have been made for the current year for Amritsar airport to provide all required facilities/ amenities for air passengers;

(c) whether Government have so far cleared any proposal for setting up of new airport projects in private sector in the country;

(d) if so, the location-wise details thereof; and

(e) whether any proposals have been received from private sector, for raising the standard of Amritsar airport to the International level?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Six airports, namely, Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh, Guwahati in Assam, Civil Enclave Goa in Goa, Ahmedabad in Gujarat, Civil Enclave Bangalore in Karnataka and Amritsar in Punjab have been upgraded to the level of International Airport.

(b) Rs. 22.50 crores have been allocated towards upgradation and development of Amritsar International Airport in the Annual Plan 2002-2003.

(c) and (d) The Government has so far cleared three proposals for setting up of new International airports under joint venture with private participation, namely Devanahalli near Bangalore in Karnataka, Shamsabad near Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh and MOPA in Goa, in place of existing airport/Civil Enclave.

(e) No, Sir.

Misuse of holiday travel facilities in IA/AI

3652. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether holiday travel facilities are provided by Air India/ Indian Airlines to their employees and their families;

(b) whether some senior officials of Air India and Indian Airlines have been found misusing such facilities during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details of such cases; and

(d) the penal and other action taken by Government against each of these employees?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No misuse of facilities *viz.*, Holiday Homes and Passages by senior officials has been reported.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.